

ERAC
EUROPEAN ROMA
INSTITUTE FOR ARTS
AND CULTURE



**THE ROMA
CULTURAL
HISTORY
INITIATIVE**

May 15th – December 15th, 2020

ERAC
EUROPEAN ROMA INSTITUTE
FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

Report on Expenditure of Funds**Allocation**

from German Federal Foreign Office

Grant Receiver:

European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture
Reinhardtstrasse 41-43
Ground floor
DE-10117 Berlin

Type of Grant:

Project support

Sum of the Grant:

EUR 200.000

Type of Financing:

Advanced Financing

Purpose of the Allocation:

Implementation of the ERIAC
Roma Cultural History Initiative (RCHI)

Project Period:

May 15th – December 15th, 2020

Related documentation:


ERIAC Roma Cultural History Initiative Financial Report

The ERIAC ROMA CULTURAL HISTORY INITIATIVE was the fourth international event series of ERIAC financed by the Federal Foreign Office of the German Government.



**NEW ROMAMOMA BLOG POST!
CHECK IT OUT ON OUR WEBSITE**





The Roma Cultural History Initiative built upon the results of the international outreach projects 1-3 to produce and disseminate long-term foundational materials for the preservation and education of Roma language, symbolism for identity and for shaping a transgenerational understanding of Roma cultural history. ERIAC led the creation of tools which facilitate collaboration and communication of Roma communities across social strata, genders, generations and countries.

ERIAC conducts the international cultural outreach programmes for the recognition and promotion of Roma arts and culture with the guidance of the ERIAC organs (membership, Barvalipe Academy, Board).

The results of the initiative are presented through the ERIAC website (eriac.org/romamoma; eriac.org/barvalipe-online-university; eriac.org/rchi-2020). Through the Roma Cultural History Initiative, ERIAC has developed long-term strategic collaboration with international institutions and Roma-led organisations.

ERIAC proposed the RCHI project components in order to continue to inspire and stimulate the Roma arts and culture scene, Roma communities and the mainstream public. Despite the challenges caused by the pandemic, ERIAC successfully implemented all project measures, as planned in the proposal.

ROMA CULTURAL HISTORY INITIATIVE

MAY – DECEMBER 2020

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The Alliance for the
European Roma Institute
for Arts and Culture

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MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The Roma Cultural History Initiative (RCHI) consisted of four complex measures, which focused on production and dissemination of foundational material for the preservation and education of Roma cultural history. The RCHI emphasised the immense field of the cultural heritage of the largest European ethnic minority, the 10-12 million Roma people. This ERIAC project raised awareness about the Roma communities' significant contribution to European culture by promoting new knowledge among majority societies, mainstream cultural institutions and European Governments.

Given the uncertainties created by the global Covid-19 pandemic, most of RCHI activities were held online, respecting the travel restrictions and social distancing regulations across Europe. In this way all RCHI events and projects were available to the public in the worldwide.

Precisely, RCHI attained the following achievements:

- Substantial contribution to European culture by promoting new knowledge through its network of cultural experts creating grounds for collaboration among different types of stakeholders.
- Gathering data from leading institutions, convincing them to be part of the Roma Cultural History Initiative, and to agree to visualising and promoting the situation and state of Roma language and cultural history.
- Created a dynamic dialogue between researchers and public institutions, ensuring that findings can be represented, multiplied and performed in physical spaces.
- Guaranteed sustainability and potential longer-term impact of the findings of the project.
- Mobilised high-level diplomatic contacts, mainstream arts and culture institutions, as well as Roma communities, and interested audience members.
- Mapping the policies and institutions through which Roma art and Roma cultural producers can be properly recognised by mainstream society.
- Mapping the institutions through which Roma language and its specialists can be properly recognised by mainstream society.
- Collected precise data about Roma language teachers, translators, interpreters.
- Established ERIAC as the organisation taking leadership on Roma cultural history education

- ERIAC reached out to its extended Roma Hub – network of Roma organisations and intellectuals – to celebrate the transformative and inspiring power of Roma arts and culture.
- ERIAC is recognised as an ideal collaboration partner by other arts and culture, research, education and academic institutions, donor organisations, national and European/international bodies with a cultural, political (for European stability) and social affairs agenda.
- Raised awareness and promoted knowledge about Roma arts and culture and Roma cultural history among the majority population; positive content about Roma.
- The strong online presence and the publication of all content guarantees the longevity of the project's deliverables and their outreach to broad audiences across the world.
- Development of new methodologies and publishing of the first book for Roma language learning.
- Long-term partnership with communications specialist consultants to support the international network events.
- Used the ERIAC website as an online digital space and the project platform.
- Used ERIAC social media channels (Facebook, Instagram) to stimulate greater visibility and online audience reach.
- Promoted the use of specifically-established hashtags, in particular on ERIAC Instagram in order to increase ERIAC's presence online.

- Employed the newsletter to increase project visibility.
- Documented each event according to the highest quality technical standards to be used again in creative ways to promote ERIAC.



RESULTS/IMPACT

The international components and online events with contributions from leading Roma scholars, artists, intellectuals, and those working in the European cultural field provided transnational visibility for ERIAC and showcased both Roma talent and artistic/cultural excellence. The components were multifarious in genre, and always included a cultural component: public conferences, working group meetings, online exhibitions, online courses and discussions, digital library, video material – demonstrating ERIAC's founding principles.

By December 2020 ERIAC built a membership of 150 associate members, including Roma and non-Roma individuals and organisations from across the world.

The visibility, the value of Roma contribution and the growing number of ERIAC supporters, partners and future members continues to ensure ERIAC's stability and growth. The fact that the project includes components open to the general public enables Roma to address the general public and benefit the majority societies.

RCHI IN NUMBERS:

ACTIVE CONTRIBUTORS: MORE THAN 200

FACEBOOK GROWTH: 370K

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS: 6

INSTAGRAM GROWTH: 350%

ERAC WEBSITE VISITS

MATERIAL OBJECTS: MORE THAN 300

RCHI + BARVALIPE + ROMAMOMA VISITS: 9K

CONFERENCES WITH AN ARCHIVE OF WRITTEN MATERIALS: 2

NUMBER OF WEBSITE VISITORS/MONTH:

CULTURAL PROGRAMMES RECORDED AND AVAILABLE IN THE ERIAC ARCHIVE: 44

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH:

FACEBOOK REACH OF EVENTS + POSTS

RELATED TO RCHI: 9K

COMPONENTS

ROMA CULTURAL HISTORY INITIATIVE

**ROMANI
LANGUAGE REFORM**
and International
Romani Language Council

**ROMA
ONLINE UNIVERSITY**
an online education program
on Roma cultural history

RomaMoMa
the Digital Roma Museum

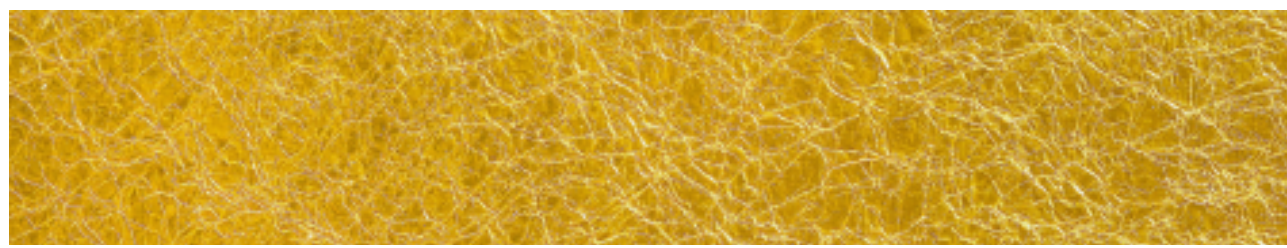
IDENTITY PACKAGES
to strengthen
the Roma cultural movement

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1.

BARVALIPE ROMA ONLINE UNIVERSITY

The first course of the Barvalipe Roma Online University brought together renowned academics from across Europe and the United States in one introductory course on Romani Cultural History. The activities of the online university succeeded in fostering productive discussion among policymakers, leaders of non-governmental institutions, artists, activists and academics. Moreover, it brought important attention to Romani knowledge production and fulfilled a need for a fair and accurate curriculum on Romani arts, history, and culture.



In total, the first course comprises 19 lectures on topics ranging from the Romani Holocaust to the politics of Romani photography, all of which are pre-recorded and archived on ERIAC's YouTube and Facebook pages. The course launched on September 1, 2020, and each subsequent week ERIAC premiered a new pre-recorded lecture via Facebook Live and Zoom. Each lecture premiere was followed by a 45-minute discussion with a panel of invited guests.

ERIAC partnered with the Romani Studies Programme at Central European University to bring the online university to fruition.

The first course was made up of three units: a historical overview of the Romani diaspora, the Romani language and Romani enslavement and more, followed by a political unit on antigypsyism, the Roma political movement and intersectional feminism. The final unit covers Romani arts and culture, as well as the politics of representation. The hybrid lecture premieres-webinars, along with the symposium of the Barvalipe Roma Online University,



garnered approximately **52,000** total views on Facebook. The lectures were also archived on the ERIAC YouTube page, where lectures received up to 400 views each. The Facebook reach for the most recent lecture-webinar of the series was 9,400. The Facebook reach of the second lecture, which launched in September, was 14,000. The Barvalipe Roma Online University was covered by online magazine, digitalmeetsculture.net.

DIGITAL LIBRARY OF CRITICAL ROMANI SCHOLARSHIP

The Barvalipe Digital Library is also an investment in creating resources that are readily available to young Roma scholars to support their writing, research and self-representation.

To compliment the first course of the Barvalipe Roma Online University, ERIAC has compiled a Digital Library of Critical Romani Scholarship. This comprehensive resource features a curated selection of Romani scholarship. The library will house text directly on the ERIAC website and will serve as a keystone for anyone interested in Romani history, arts, culture and theory.

**Critical Pedagogy, Romani Emancipation
and Post-COVID Education**

Online International Symposium

Roma Cultural History Initiative 2020

**November 25, 2020
15:30 CET**

Logos at the bottom include:
- ERIAC EUROPEAN ROMA INSTITUTE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE
- CEU CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY
- European Union flag
- The Alliance for the European Roma Institute
- The Alliance for the European Roma Institute
- OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

CRITICAL PEDAGOGY: ROMANI EMANCIPATION AND POST-COVID EDUCATION

To compliment the first course of the Barvalipe Roma Online University, ERIAC has compiled a Digital Library of Critical Romani Scholarship. This comprehensive resource features a curated selection of Romani scholarship. The library will house text directly on the ERIAC website and will serve as a keystone for anyone interested in Romani history, arts, culture and theory.

RESULTS/IMPACT

The activities of the Barvalipe Roma Online University succeeded in fostering productive discussion among policymakers, leaders of non-governmental institutions, artists, activists and academics. Moreover, it brought important attention to Romani knowledge production and fulfilled a need for a fair and accurate curriculum on Romani arts, history, and culture. The Barvalipe Roma Online University engaged a total number of nearly 100 active contributors. The lectures and discussion series involved 19 lecturers, 60 discussants, three moderators/coordinators, two Romanes translators and a curator for the Digital Library. The online

symposium involved 10 presenters, moderators and administrators. Panelists included Thorsten Afflerbach, Secretary to the ADI-ROM, Head of Division, Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe; Gyula Cserey, acting Head of Unit, Strategy and Investments, DG for Education, Youth, Sports, and Culture, European Commission; Redjepali Chupi, Executive Director of the Roma Education Fund (REF) and Gilda Horvath, ERIAC Board Member. ERIAC partnered with the Romani Studies Program at Central European University to bring the symposium to fruition, who put together an academic panel.

BRAVALIPE ROMA ONLINE UNIVERSITY IN NUMBERS:

ACTIVE CONTRIBUTORS: 100

LECTURERS: 19

DISCUSSANTS: 60

MODERATORS / COORDINATORS / CURATORS: 4

ROMANI TRANSLATORS: 2

ONLINE SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS: 10

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNER: ROMANI STUDIES PROGRAM
AT CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY REACH:

TOTAL FACEBOOK VIEWS: 52,000

TOTAL YOUTUBE VIEWS: 8000

WIDEST AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT / LECTURE: 2,400

WIDEST REACH / LECTURE: 16,300

CONFERENCE REACH: 5,800

WEBSITE REACH: 3,100

MEDIA, PRESS: DIGITALMEETSCULTURE.NET

Calendar of Events

Roma 101: Introduction to Roma Identity, History and Historiography by Dr. Adrian Marsh
September 1, 2020

Introduction to the Romani Language by Mihaela Zatreanu
September 8, 2020

Roma Identity: Between Unity and Radical Diversity by Dr. Ismael Cortes
September 15, 2020

Roma Slavery, History, Legacy, Reparations by Dr. Margareta Matache
November 26-27, 2018
Albania's Roma Cultural Heritage

Seville
September 22, 2020

"Andaro Angluno Vast | First-Hand" by Nino Nihad Pušija, Opening
September 25, 2020

An Introduction to Antigypsyism by Dr. Iulius Rostas
September 29, 2020

The Roma Holocaust and the History of Roma Resistance by Dr. Ethel Brooks
October 6, 2020

Roma Sovieticus: Roma Experience under Communism by Dr. Ciprian Necula
October 13, 2020

History of the Roma Political Movement by Andrzej Mirga
October 20, 2020

Romani Feminism, Intersectionality and LGBT Roma Movement by Dr. Angela Kocze
October 27, 2020

Urban Memories and Countryside Mirrors: A History of Romani Performing Arts by Miguel Angel Vargas
November 3, 2020

SAFEGUARDING OUR ROMANI LANGUAGE – INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
November 5, 2020

Romani Dance History by Dr. Rosemary Cisneros
November 17, 2020

Roma Art: An Epistemic, Political and Institutional Achievement by Timea Junghaus
November 24, 2020

CRITICAL PEDAGOGY, ROMANI EMANCIPATION AND POST-COVID EDUCATION
November 25, 2020 –
Online International Symposium

The Universe of Romani Music by Dr. Petra Gelbart
December 1, 2020

Roma Knowledge-Production – Examining the Critical Turn in Romani Studies by Dr. Colin Clark
December 8, 2020

2.

ROMANI LANGUAGE REFORM

The initiative contains efforts towards an “International Romani Language Reform”, through building on the existing results and updating the Curriculum Framework for Romani developed by the Language Policy Division of the Council of Europe in 2008, as part of the Council of Europe’s comprehensive approach to Roma and Traveller issues. The initiative continued the international work on the common Romani language with international experts with proven experience in the field and developed teaching materials based on the Curriculum Framework for Romani. For continuing the international work on the

development of the Romani language, ERIAC brought together international experts with proven experience in the field, facilitating cooperation at an international level, setting up common strategies and standards. The following activities had progress: created the database with Romani language teachers, translators and interpreters; establish a network of international Romani language schools – we were in contact with professors from different universities in Europe; organised the International Conference for Romani Language on 5 November 2020; wrote and published the Romani language textbook – level A1 for adults.

ROMANI LANGUAGE TEXTBOOK – LEVEL A1

To produce the textbook, ERIAC has selected two authors based on a competitive process, a methodologist provided by the University of Graz, a photographer, an illustrator, and five language experts as proofreaders.

The textbook includes 10 chapters based on A1 level descriptors. It is written in the common Romani (general Romani), using the most common/accessible spelling system at the European level. It contains basic information about Romani culture integrated into each chapter. The textbook follows the major themes from the curriculum and includes aspects of modern contemporary society, combining elements from everyday life. The textbook is designed for adults, Roma and non-Roma, who do not know the language and wish to learn it.

The language of the textbook was reviewed by the five Romani language specialists, most of them working at major universities in Europe where the Romani language is studied. The language specialists

are speakers of different Romani dialects from different European countries, and their revision aimed chiefly to instill common sense over the language used and contribute to the development of a common transnational Romani language, accessible to most Roma groups in Europe.

After the revision of the language experts, the authors implemented their suggestions and succeeded in harmonising the different opinions. The process concluded with the online meeting with ERIAC management, where the new knowledge produced by the proofreaders was synchronised, and the final manuscript was submitted.

SAFEGUARDING OUR ROMANI LANGUAGE: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The online conference was organised as a public online event in partnership with the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Plurilingualism Research Unit of the University of Graz on the occasion of the World Day of Romani Language, on 5 November 2020.

The conference brought together 25 of the most relevant experts and practitioners of Romani language, educators and academics who engage with linguistics research, and development of teaching materials, but also professors from different universities in Europe where Romani language is studied. Departing from the notion that Romani language heritage is at risk, the conference aimed to establish cooperation for language harmonisation

at an international and national level, to promote the recognition, preservation, development and cultural-political harmony and synthesis for the future of the Romani language.

The event comprised sessions concentrating on various aspects of Romani language development: status of the Romani language in 2020; current practices in Romani language education; Romani language teaching/re-learning initiatives; transnational development of Romani language and culture; the future of Romani language education 2020-2030.

An important aspect was the recognition and promotion of Romani language under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) of the Council of Europe, and future update of the status of Romani in the Charter, as well as the update of Romani language Curriculum Framework developed by Council of Europe Language Policy Division, and the further cooperation with the states who ratified the Charter.

The conference was translated into Romani and was streamed online, on ERIAC Facebook page, producing 9,600 views.

MAPPING PARTNERS, LANGUAGE SCHOOLS, TEACHERS, TRANSLATORS, INTERPRETERS

ERIAC has launched a public call and invited language specialists to apply and register in our database of Romani language teachers, translators and interpreters. The public call was opened from July until December 15, 2020. Following this announcement, 45 language teachers, translators and interpreters in the ERIAC database.

Supporting institutional partners of the Romani language initiative are Council of Europe, Graz University - Plurilingualism Research Unit, and Goethe-Institute Budapest.

In order to map European Romani language schools, we developed contacts with professors from universities in Europe that organize independent courses within the University of Bucharest, University of Paris-Sorbonne, Charles University (Prague), Pécs University, Novi Sad University; and with those that have university programmes at the universities of Graz, Manchester, and Helsinki. Most were represented at the international conference.

CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTORS: 25

SPEAKERS: 21

MODERATORS: 2

TRANSLATORS: 2

LANGUAGE BOOK CONTRIBUTORS: 10

LANGUAGE EXPERTS: 8

CREATIVES: 2

REACH:

WEBSITE REACH: 1,400

FACEBOOK REACH: 64,400

CONFERENCE VIEWS: 9,600

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS: COUNCIL OF EUROPE,
GRAZ UNIVERSITY - PLURILINGUALISM RESEARCH



3.

ROMAMOMA THE DIGITAL ROMA MUSEUM



The transnational, collaborative, and discursive art project RomaMoMA – The Digital Roma Museum invites numerous Roma and non-Roma art experts, artists, curators, and scholars to imagine, discuss and present the possible forms of a Roma museum of modern and contemporary art. RomaMoMA developed as a digital blog on a newly designed website, developed for the project, on which the virtual discussion and the imagining of the museum takes place.

RomaMoMA has invited Roma and non-Roma artists, cultural experts, scholars and civil society to imagine an institution, which hopefully soon be realizes as cutting-edge agent of the contemporary arts and culture scene. The aim has been to create a platform where ideas on the necessity and possible roles of a transnational museum of Roma contemporary art could be exchanged, and to come up with a collective proposal for the institution of such a museum.

The blog launched in September 2020, and in total has comprised 20 contributions, both in text and in

video format, on topics of Roma cultural inclusion, institutional critique and politics of representation. Each contribution is always published both on the newly created website and on ERIAC social media platforms, Facebook and Instagram.

The Digital Roma Museum Initiative has developed new, accessible content through the digital space for contemporary arts and culture, as approved by the RomaMoMA Think Tank members.

The RomaMoMA blog and Instagram page functions as a Virtual Roma Museum and as an online space facilitating the research and the finding or the streaming of exhibitions, performances, lectures. In facts, all blog contributors were asked to mention Roma artworks in their submissions, and the Instagram page was curated in order to create an online gallery of Roma contemporary art, on which ERIAC publishes weekly Roma contemporary artworks and Roma related art events. Moreover, the blog was developed with a submenu, "Current events," which functions as an online event calendar.

EXHIBITIONS & COLLABORATIONS

The initial objective of The Digital Roma Museum Initiative to "perform the museum" collections in physical spaces of partnering institutions was a more difficult goal to reach due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Nevertheless, RomaMoMA managed to collaborate on a number of different projects with several cultural institutions.

Events that ERIAC contributed to and that strengthened the cultural institutional network of RomaMoMA:

- RomaMoMA co-curated the Library of Resistance at Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum in Cologne, opened during the group exhibition Resist!, for which ERIAC Executive Director Timea Junghaus participated as a co-curator.
- RomaMoMA had an initial meeting with the director of Savvy Contemporary Berlin to plan together an exhibition in 2021 about the cultural inclusion of different minorities. This collaboration is to be continued during 2021.
- ERIAC co-organized, together with Volksbühne Berlin, the Diaspora Europe Festival, which took place at Volksbühne Berlin and ERIAC Art Space in December 2020.
- ERIAC continued the collaboration and co-organisation of the BARVALO Exhibition, that will take place at MUCEUM Marseille in 2023.
- The Kai Dikhas Stiftung in Berlin officially joined the RomaMoMA Think Tank in December 2020.
- RomaMoMA was able to establish an initial contact with Kataoka Mami, the Director of the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo and President of the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Modern Art (CIMAM), with the aim of crystalising a collaboration on the RomaMoMA initiative. This collaboration is to be further concretised during 2021.
- RomaMoMA actively participated in enriching the "Library of Resistance" created at the Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum in Cologne, by providing a curated selection of Roma related books on topics such as Romani Resistance and Roma Art History.
- The art journal e-flux agreed to publish an article about the RomaMoMA Blog, scheduled for the end of February 2021.

NIHAD NINO PUŠIJA: ANDARO ANGLUNO VAST

In the framework of the European Month of Photography in Berlin, ERIAC featured the new series of Nino Pušija, entitled Andaro Angluno Vast (First-Hand) with portraits of internationally known Romani artists and activists.

Photography is the most historically complex and problematic genre to appropriate the Roma subject. Will the Roma ever be able to dissociate themselves from the traumatising – sexualising and criminalising – practices of photographic representation used throughout the history of anthropology and

ethnography? Has it become definitively impossible to turn and re-turn the photographic gaze? Since his first exhibition in Sarajevo (1988), the questions sketched out above have been central to the work of artist and photographer Nino Nihad Pušija.

RESULTS/IMPACT

The activities of the Digital Roma Museum Initiative succeeded in fostering productive discussion among art makers, cultural institutions, artists and activists. Moreover, the initiative brought important attention to the more than a millennium-long cultural contribution of Roma to European societies and national cultures, which continues to be denied by mainstream art institutions. In fact, Roma cultural heritage has been misinterpreted and racialised as ethnic, naïve and primitive. To date, European majority institutions have failed to include Roma arts and culture into their permanent programming, and to provide art spaces led by Sinti and Roma dedicated to preserving and valuing Romani heritage. RomaMoMA addresses the vicious circle that has paralysed the Roma arts for over a millennium, prohibiting a truly diverse European cultural scene, and aimed at making the role of Roma arts and culture visible, in order to educate and inform the non-Roma population about Roma arts and culture, and to help in creating understanding, tolerance and mutual respect between Roma and non-Roma communities.

RomaMoMA – The Digital Roma Museum has engaged a total number of about 50 active contributors, including the involvement of blog authors, project contributors and Think Tank members. The blog included contributions by superstar curators and artists, such as Maria Lind, Meghan Forbes, Delaine Le Bas, Hajnalka Somogyi, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Małgorzata Mirga-Tas, and Achille Mbembe. Due to the success and positive feedback to the Digital Roma Museum, both OFF Biennale and ERIAC agreed on continuing the project throughout 2021, inviting new contributors and developing new topics to write about, such as Museum and Education / Intercultural Pedagogy and Politics of representation for additional minorities beyond than Sinti and Roma.

The official partner of ERIAC on the RomaMoMA project has been OFF Biennale Budapest. Moreover, RomaMoMA has been throughout supported by the RomaMoMA Think Tank. All members' names can be found on the RomaMoMA website. There has been a total of 23 blog authors thus far, ranging from art curators to political theorists and artists.

ACTIVE CONTRIBUTORS: 50

AUTHORS: 23

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNER: OFF BIENNALE

BUDAPEST

REACH

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS +1250

WIDEST REACH ON FACEBOOK / POST: 9,500

MEDIA, PRESS: E-FLUX.COM



/RESIST! The Art of Resistance

Discussion with radio station
Deutschlandfunk (DLF)

The discussion at the radio station *Deutschlandfunk (DLF)* is subtitled: "Let us resist," moderated by the cultural journalist Stefan Kleinert.

18h CET
28. November,
2020



/Maria Lind MODEST COPERNICAN REVOLUTIONS

"Radically inclusive *RomaMOMA*, this entire proposal, is not content twisting the conditions of a movement it is turning perspectives upside-down."

Link in bio



/Nihad Nino Pušija: *First-Hand*

ERIAC Art Space

Photography is the most historically complex and problematic genre to ever appropriate the Roma subject. Will Roma ever be able to dissociate themselves from the transfixing – sexualizing and criminalizing – processes of photographic representation, used throughout the history of anthropology and ethnography? And how is becoming definitively impossible to turn and return the photographic gaze?

25. September
15. December,
2020



/Meghan Forbes: The Body as Archive, Archiving One's Self

Meghan Forbes considers the work of *RomaMOMA* as related to memory production and preservation, through the process of recording, archiving and exhibiting. This essay emphasizes the relevance of the Roma experience as a model for an anti-racist, decolonial museum practice needed in our contemporary moment.

Link in bio



4.


IDENTITY PACKAGES

TO STRENGTHEN

THE ROMA CULTURAL MOVEMENT

The project was born from the objective of introducing ERIAC to diverse audiences in locations outside of ERIAC's headquarters in Berlin, through actual objects, besides the online projects and activities. Through the creation and dissemination of the "identity packages," ERIAC has raised the enthusiasm and mobilised support among Roma and non-Roma individuals, and Roma organisations. The symbolism transmitted by the Roma flag increases Roma unity, identity and activism; thus, belonging and solidarity are strengthened, Roma pride is increased and solidarity is built.





This project was developed in close collaboration with the international network of Roma organisations involved in active citizenship, and community support; thus, it shall pay close attention to the needs and expectations of these organisations and their outreach to the Roma communities. ERIAC convened a series of meetings with the representatives of the Mahala Network. The meetings ensured:

- participation of the entire network and all constitutive organisation on the national level.

PARTICIPANTS:

Kethane – Roma and Sinti Movement, Italy; Avaja, Northern Macedonia; Opre Roma, Serbia; We Belong Here Association and partners, Hungary; Opre Roma Initiative – Roma for a Better Slovakia and Europe, Slovakia; Camelamos Naquerar, Spain; Roma Standing Conference Bulgaria; Aresel, Romania;

ERIAC created online solutions and real-life items, thematising, accessorising, and strengthening the Roma cultural movement. The “identity packages”, including thematised accessories, but also educational and artistic content, were produced and delivered to local Roma networks.

Based on the ideas discussed within the Mahala network, the following items were mailed, with the aim of contribute to the Roma identity on a European level:

- 1 large Roma and 1 large EU flag;
- 2 Roma and 2 EU conference table flags;
- 30 Pins with Roma flag design.

All items were mailed to the respective Mahala Network organisations to be distributed locally by them.

